

[Constitution as of 1949]

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641 Art. 128. In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church
in the Russian SFSR is separated from the state and the school from the church.
858 Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recog-
nized for all citizens.

Art. 129. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the citizens of the Russian SFSR are guaranteed by law:

- (a) Freedom of speech;
- (b) Freedom of the press;
- (c) Freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings;
- (d) Freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These civil rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

● 579 Art. 130. In conformity with the interests of the working people and in order to develop the organizational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people, citizens of the Russian SFSR are ensured the right to unite in public organizations -- trade unions, co-operative associations, youth organizations, sport and defense organizations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; and the most active and politically conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to strengthen and develop the socialist system and is the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both public and State.

1697 Art. 131. Citizens of the Russian SFSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator.

Art. 132. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

Art. 133. The Russian SFSR affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for their scientific activities, or for their struggle for national liberation.

Art. 134. It is the duty of every citizen of the Russian SFSR to abide by the Constitution of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

1605 Art. 135. It is the duty of every citizen of the Russian SFSR to safeguard and strengthen public socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 136. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the ranks of the armed forces of the USSR is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Russian SFSR.

701 of international Communism. "In our times," said Stalin before
 721 the Seventeenth Party Congress in 1934, "it is not the custom
 to give any consideration to the weak. . . . consideration is only
 given to the strong." The Party therefore undertook to drill
 millions of subjects in the use of arms and to develop an impos-
 ing army of professional soldiers.

The need of militarization of the entire population has been
 reflected in the Bolshevik ideology of total war. As early as the
 nineteen twenties the Bolshevik military strategist and Com-
 missar of Defense, Mikhail Frunze, developed the theory of mo-
 bilization of the entire population and of regimentation of all
 aspects of life as a means of war preparation.⁶² As a result of such
 a trend of thought pre-military training has been introduced
 into public schools and many teaching subjects have been
 oriented toward military thinking. Also the Party has sponsored
 • [595] and supported private organizations to promote physical fitness
 and military training (*Ossoaviokhim*) on a mass scale.

703 The need of the ruling faction to use military training as a
 school of obedience, loyalty, leadership, and war preparedness
 dictated also the policies concerning the system of military train-
 ing. Consequently earlier ideas of fraternization and equality of
 ranks developed as a response to the longing for an anarchic
 brotherhood were attacked as "false democracy"; instead strict
 military discipline has been introduced and embodied in minute
 [687] military regulations.⁶³ As a result very heavy and hard punish-
 ments have been provided for slightest breaches in discipline.

The military regulations now demand unquestionable obedi-
 ence of the subordinate to his superior, and immediate and
 literal execution of his command regardless of what that com-
 mand may be: "The order of the commander is law for the
 subordinate. The order must be fulfilled without question,
 literally and immediately."⁶⁴ To insure such unconditional
 obedience the military regulations authorize Soviet officers to
 use harsh means to cope with lapses of discipline. These include
 not only ordinary punishments, but physical beatings and even
 killing "in an emergency, when there is no time to spare." Sig-
 nificantly enough, the term "officer" was discarded and has been
 substituted by that of "commander."